

# DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

## **CANON LAW 806 FINAL INSPECTION REPORT INCORPORATING SECTION 48**

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Lady of Victories  
Catholic Primary School  
Guard House Road, Keighley BD22 6JP

School URN

107347

Date of Inspection and OE  
grade

June 22 & 23 2016  
Grade: 1 Outstanding

E-mail address

j.devlin@ourlady.ngfl.ac.uk

Chair of Governors

Nick Watson

Headteacher

Executive Headteacher: John Devlin  
Head of School: Paul Booth

RE Subject Leader

Rachel Balson and Orysia Allen

Date and grade of last S48  
inspection

May 2011 Grade: 2 Good

Section 48 Inspector/s

Mr MJ Gallagher

# INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Inspection Grades: 1 is Outstanding, 2 is Good, 3 requires improvement in order to be good, 4 is Inadequate

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.

1

*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

- *Outcomes for pupils,*
- *The provision for Catholic Education*
- *Leaders and Managers*

**OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS**

1

**THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

1

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**LEADERS AND MANAGERS**

1

**Summary of key findings:**

## **This is an outstanding Catholic Primary School**

- The school's Mission Statement, 'Achieve Together in God's Love', is central to the work of Our Lady of Victories: developed in September 2015 by all stakeholders its commitment to; 'develop, ...a diverse community of excellence...with Christ at its centre....' is clearly lived by all who are involved with the school and they are relentless in its pursuit.
- Pupils are articulate and highly motivated. Their behaviour is exemplary and relationships between all groups are outstanding. They are tolerant of pupils of different faiths and of those with disabilities.
- The development of Religious Education is given the highest priority evident in the support the new subject leader has been given by the very experienced subject leader over the past two years.
- Collective Worship is central to the everyday life of the school: it has a wide variety of forms allowing pupils to understand the Church's liturgical heritage.
- Pupils enter school with skills and knowledge well below expectations but, by the time they leave, outcomes are above those expected.
- Senior leaders know their school well and are accurate in their self-evaluation judgements.
- The Executive Headteacher's drive to create a learning environment that is exciting, outward looking, safe and secure for all pupils, yet adventurous, is shared by all leaders and is fundamental to the school's success.
- Governors play their part by monitoring the work of the school and are able to challenge the senior leaders and hold them to account.
- The school's Religious Education curriculum meets Bishop Conference requirements. All canonical and statutory duties are fulfilled.

- All issues raised in the previous Denominational Inspection have been addressed.

### **What the school needs to do to improve further.**

- Increase the percentage of outstanding teaching throughout the school by sharing the existing outstanding practice.
- Further strengthen the existing marking and feedback system by sharing success criteria with pupils at the beginning of each lesson.
- Extend the existing good practice in Religious Education lessons by giving all pupils opportunities to produce extended writing where they can show their understanding of topics covered, giving reasons and arguments.
- Leaders need to ensure there are robust induction arrangements in place for the newly qualified teacher arriving in September and continued support for the new Religious Education leader.

### **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of Our Lady of Victories was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections approved by the Diocesan Administrator of Leeds. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2012).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.
- The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning.
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.
- The accuracy of the school's self-evaluation system.
- How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate teaching and learning and plan improvement.

The inspection was carried out by one inspector over one and a half days. A sample of six Religious Education lessons and three acts of Collective Worship, including a whole school worship led by the Head of School and one liturgy led by the temporary Parish Priest were observed as well as a learning walk through the Early Years.

A comprehensive range of school Religious Education documentation was used as evidence including, monitoring and evaluation reports, assessment procedures and data and Governing Body minutes. Displays were observed in classrooms and throughout the school. Photographs were supplied providing evidence of the teaching and assessment of Religious Education in the Early Years. Meetings took place with the Executive Headteacher and Head of School, the temporary Parish Priest and both Religious Education subject leaders, representatives of the Religious and School Councils, the Religious Education Governor and seven parent representatives.

## Information about this school

- Our Lady of Victories Catholic School, Keighley is a larger than average primary school. The number on roll is 266 with 34% being Catholic
- The majority of the pupils are from minority ethnic groups with 53% of children having English as an additional language
- The school is an active member of the Catholic Schools Partnership Teaching Schools Alliance, training School Direct students and providing School-to-School Support to other Catholic Schools with the Executive Headteacher being an LLE (Local Leader of Education).
- There are 11 full time teachers and 2 part time along with 23 support staff employed. 11 teachers are Catholic and 5 hold the CCRS.

## Full report - inspection judgements

### Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.	<b>1</b>
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	<b>1</b>
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	<b>1</b>

- Pupils in Our Lady of Victories are very proud of their school: they take their responsibilities for developing the Catholic character of their school seriously and do so with great success. This is evident in their relationships: there is an atmosphere of tolerance and respectfulness that pervades the school.
- Community, rooted in worship and prayer, is at the heart of Our Lady of Victories. Pupils in the Early Years sang, 'It's me that builds community' and the embodiment of this song was evident in every aspect of the school's work.
- Pupils are very aware of cultural differences among their peers but respectful of them. When asked how their school managed to achieve this high level of mutual respect and tolerance? A pupil simply pointed towards the Mission Statement displayed on the wall behind me that stated, 'Achieve Together in God's Love'.
- Pupils make excellent progress in Religious Education, from starting points that are way below expectations, to outcomes at the end of their primary years that are above expectations.
- They enjoy their learning in Religious Education and benefit hugely from it, clearly evident in the excellent relationships between all groups within the school.
- Pupils enjoy their learning in Religious Education because they receive good teaching through a creative curriculum resulting in good progress for all groups and high levels of attainment.
- Pupils gain hugely from the Catholic Life of the school and have an impact beyond it, evident in their preparations in organising an event in July, for 600 children and the Catholic community of Keighley, to celebrate the Year of Mercy.
- They raise funds for local charities for example Catholic Care and the Macmillan Nurses as well as for CAFOD and the Nepal Earthquake.
- Pupils are skilled in leading, planning and in the evaluation of acts of Collective Worship. During the Acts of Worship observed they were respectful and prayerful. They showed they were skilled in the use of scripture, they understood the need for reflection and their singing was beautiful.

- The status of the Catholic Life of the school is reflected in the pupils having their own Religious Education Council in addition to the usual School Council. This group of pupils plan and conduct Acts of Worship liturgies and assemblies with the support of the school Chaplain and teaching staff.

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**The provision for Catholic Education is Outstanding**

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	1

- The provision for Catholic Education in Our Lady of Victories is outstanding.
- The quality of teaching in Religious Education, overall, is good with some of it outstanding. Where teaching is outstanding skilful questioning by teachers directs pupil discussion, the pace of the lessons add dynamism and excitement and tasks are appropriately differentiated to allow all groups to make progress in their learning.
- Teachers plan their lessons effectively taking into account their pupils' prior knowledge and their capabilities.
- They use Information Technology efficiently and effectively.
- The school's creative approach in delivering the religious education curriculum has actively engaged all pupils in their learning and has had a positive impact on the levels of attainment achieved by pupils and the good progress that make.
- Pupils are committed to their learning and are eager to succeed. This is evident in their excellent behaviour during lessons and their positive attitude.
- This is an inclusive school where the feelings and beliefs of all pupils are respected and protected. This results in a willingness among pupils to be open and frank in their discussions. This was evident in a number of lessons on Islam where pupils contributed to the lesson from their own faith background but demonstrated that they could make links with Christian beliefs and, vice versa.
- Pupils' books are well presented and regularly marked with pupils being given the opportunity to respond to the teachers' comments. Success criteria are not consistently shared with pupils resulting in pupils' work being marked against the lesson objective which can often be too broad for pupils to recognise the next steps in their learning.
- Support staff play a crucial role in supporting pupils in their work and are instrumental in their success. They support both, teaching and learning, by providing supplementary questions, giving additional support to individuals, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities, and groups of pupils.
- The executive headteacher role enables Our Lady of Victories to work very closely with nearby St Joseph's allowing staff from both schools to learn from each other's strengths.
- All classes have a Religious Education focal point in their classrooms these are current, well maintained and respected.
- Pupils have experience of leading and participating in Acts of Collective Worship from an early age. This was evidenced in the Early Years when the pupils set up the focal point and explained what they were doing. The Religious Education Council is vociferous in detailing the events they have planned and organised.
- Senior leaders continually look for improvements and a Prayer Garden was in the process of being completed in the school grounds.
- Parents praised the school for its support for the more vulnerable pupils through provision of the Catholic Care worker, the open door policy allowing them immediate access to the teaching staff, leaders creativity by involving them in their children's

learning through ‘Family Points’ and the extra tuition provided for SATs before the beginning of the school day-with breakfast.

- The school Chaplain provides invaluable support for both pupils and staff. Staff are given confidence in facilitating pupils to lead and plan Acts of Worship through the provision of resources, training and sound advice while pupils benefit through group sessions that enable them to explore prayer.

## The Leadership and Management are Outstanding

<b>How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.</b>	<b>1</b>
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- Leaders and managers are deeply committed to the church’s mission in education. This is evident in every aspect of the school’s work: from the displays in the entrance; pupils’ attitudes towards prayer and worship, the excellent relationships between all groups within the school and the persistent search by school leaders for ways to improve the school for the benefit of the pupils.
- Leaders and managers at Our Lady of Victories face their daily challenges with an optimistic view that things can be made to work in their favour and for the benefit of their pupils. An example of this is the way they compensated for the absence of a permanent Parish Priest by encouraging pupils to have greater responsibility in supporting the organisation of the Religious Education and Collective Worship within the school.
- School leaders have employed an experienced Chaplain to support pupils and teaching staff in the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- To overcome the many social problems that present on a daily basis, leaders have employed a Catholic Care Worker to help support families in need. Personal and social intervention programmes are available as well as friendship workshops, the Nurture and Sensory rooms and a mentoring programme. All of these reflect the school’s mission.
- School leaders ensure that Religious Education is prominent in the school’s development planning by including Religious Education targets in staff Performance Management, allocating an appropriate proportion of the school’s finances to fund the development of Religious Education and designating two days a year for the training of staff.
- The Religious Education subject leaders are part of the Senior Leadership Team and their enthusiasm and drive for raising the standards in provision for Religious Education is a real strength of the school.
- Governors are well informed through comprehensive and detailed reports from the Headteacher and through their own monitoring visits. They provide appropriate support for senior leaders yet are able to challenge decisions made ensuring the best possible outcomes for the pupils.
- The school has a robust system for self-evaluation; rigorous auditing of the curriculum include classroom observations, book scrutiny and discussions with pupils that allow analysis of performance and outcomes and promote self-challenge.
- Issues arising from the audits are reported to the Governing Body, discussed and identified weaknesses are addressed in the School Development Plan.

- The drive for excellence by school leaders, supported by a skilful, enthusiastic teaching and support staff has had a direct impact on the quality of teaching and learning for all pupils.
- The Governor responsible for Religious Education is a regular visitor to classrooms observing the teaching of Religious Education, Acts of Collective Worship and liturgies.
- Our Lady of Victories Primary School is the heart of the Catholic community in this area of Keighley. School leaders are relentless in their pursuit of excellence and success for all pupils in their care. Together with the support of its Governing Body the school ensures that all receive the best that Catholic Education can offer.